

- 1) It is our understanding that Cool Cities Blueprints for Michigan's Downtowns is a 50/50 match grant project with the following opportunities available:
 - Community population size under 7,500 will pay \$15,000
 - Communities between 7,501-15,000 will pay \$20,000
 - Communities between 15,001-30,000 will pay \$25,000
 - A community over 30,001 will pay \$32,500

Question: Is it correct to assume that the budget available for the total project is calculated as follows: Community pays 50% + MSHDA pays 50%? **Yes**

- For example, a project for 10 communities (of over 30,001 each) would have a maximum budget total of \$650,000. **Yes, the budget is dependent on the number and size of the communities that apply.**
- 2) Has a budget ceiling been established for this project and if so, can you make that budget ceiling public? **The budget ceiling will depend on the number and size of communities involved. The price will be determined based on the population sizes and is a 50%/50% match between the communities and Michigan State Housing Development Authority. The budget will be determined based on the responses we get from communities, which could be up to 10 communities.**
 - 3) Is the orientation meeting on August 2009 intended to be the kickoff for the project or do you envision other items completed prior to that orientation meeting that will inform the process and provide a framework for each community for the work to be undertaken? **The orientation meeting in August is intended to be the kickoff meeting where those communities that are chosen would come to a meeting and the consultant group that was chosen would lay out the framework for each community in the coming year.**
 - 4) Is there a specific contract period that has been established and if so, what is that contract period? **August 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010.**
 - 5) What is the timeframe for each of the communities that desire to be included in the Strategic Plan to complete their items? **3 to 5 years.**
 - 6) Are their items to precede completion of work by the Contractor or be completed simultaneously? **Flexible based on the contractor's proposal.**
 - 7) Is there an expectation of the amount of "hands-on" time with each community to assist them with their plan? **No set level "hands-on" time.**
 - 8) Is the consultant expected to draft a follow-up plan for each community that will require periodic check-ups during the five-year implementation timeframe? **No**
 - 9) Is there a local preference for proposals? **No**

- 10) Has a consultant/firm already been directly contacted about it by the issuing department? [Not prior to issuance of the RFP. A link to the RFP was sent to several consultants who asked to be notified once the RFP was issued.](#)
- 11) Is there a MWBE preference? [No](#)
- 12) What was the budget for the original blueprint project under MEDC? [\\$395,000](#)
- 13) Do you have an estimated budget for this project? [The budget has been set at \\$450,000 total.](#)
- 14) Do you envision the final work product for this round of blueprints being similar to what was produced for the first round, or are you expecting something different? [We are expecting a product that has been laid out in the RFP. As long as what we are looking for is provided to communities we don't have an exact path that consultants have to follow.](#)
- 15) Have you identified any other information that should be included in this round of plans that was not in the first round? [No](#)
- 16) The Request states "up to 10 communities" and "up to 10 plans" through out the document, but on page 7 it refers to "all 10 plans." Do you envision there will be 10 individual plans or do you envision that there may be a lesser number? [It will depend on how many communities apply for the Blueprint program. Based on that number it will then determine how many plans with be created.](#)
- 17) If you envision less than 10 plans, please explain the circumstances under which fewer than 10 plans would be completed. [It depends on the number of applicants we receive from communities and how many communities we would take in to go through the process.](#)
- 18) What is your anticipated time frame for completion of the plans? [August 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010.](#)

- 19) Please clarify what you are including in “public and private infrastructure” on page 7, paragraph 5. Examples of “public and private infrastructure” could be roads, water, sewer, parking lots, streetscape, parks, etc.
- 20) We need to know the names of the 10 cities or the sizes of those with some minimal accompanying descriptions. We will not know the size or who the communities are until June 2009.
- 21) Secondly, should we price these one city at a time or provide one price for all ten? Price them one city at a time and provide one price for all ten.
- 22) Thirdly, is there any indication for the overall budget for the project? The price will be determined based on the population sizes and is a 50%/50% match between the communities and Michigan State Housing Development Authority. The maximum budget has been set at \$450,000 total. Depending on how many communities apply.
- 23) We intend to submit a proposal whereby we are the planning or lead firm and with other individual firms providing retail, residential, and market studies on our behalf. Is that sort of team approach acceptable? Yes
- 24) Also, one of the market research firms is also a planning firm and may possibly want to have equal standing in the RFP with us. Would that be advisable? No opinion